THE CRISIS.

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DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, Auguſt 24, 1776, Price Two-pence Half-penny.

The following is the Declaration of INDEPENDENCE of the BRAVE, FREE, and VIRTUOUS *Americans*, againſt the moſt daſtardly, ſlaviſh, and vicious TYRANT, that ever diſgraced a Nation, whoſe ſavage cruelties are covered under a maſk of Religion. Horrid Impiety! Execrable Hypocriſy!

A Declaration by the Repreſentatives of the united States of America, in Genera Congreſs aſſembled. July 4, 1776

HEN in the courſe of human events it becomes neceſſary for one people to diſſolve the political bonds, which have connected them with another, and to aſſume among the powers of the earth the ſeperate and equal ſtation to which the laws of nature, and nature's God entitles them, a decent reſpect to the opinions of mankind requires that they ſhould declare the cauſes which impel them to the ſeparation.

We hold theſe truths to be ſelf evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowedy their creator with certain unaliena

ble

ble rights, that among theſe are life, liberty, and the purſuit of happineſs. That to ſecure theſe rights, governments are inſtituted among men, deriving their juſt powers from the conſent of the governed; and whenever any form of government becomes deſtructive of theſe ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to aboliſh it, and to inſtitute new government; laying its foundation on ſuch principles, and organizing its powers in ſuch form, as to them ſhall ſeem moſt likely to effect their ſafety and happineſs. Prudence indeed will direct that governments long eſtabliſhed ſhould not be changed for light and tranſient cauſes, and accordingly all experience hath ſhewn, that mankind are more diſpoſed to ſuffer, while evils are ſufferable than to right themſelves by aboliſhing the forms to which they are accuſtomed. But when a long train of abuſes and uſurpations, purſuing invariably the ſame object, evinces a deſign to reduce them under abſolute deſpotiſm, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off ſuch government, and to provide new guards for their future ſecurity.

Such has been the patient ſuffrance of theſe colonies, and ſuch is now the neceſſity that conſtrains them to alter their former ſyſtems of government. The hiſtory of the preſent King of Great Britain, is a hiſtory of repeated injuries and uſurpations; all having in direct object the eſtabliſhment of an abſolute tyranny over theſe ſtates. To prove this let facts be ſubmitted to a candid world.

He has refuſed to aſſent to laws the moſt wholeſome and neceſſary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to paſs laws of immediate and preſſing importance, unleſs ſuſpended in their operations till his aſſent ſhould be obtained; and when ſo ſuſpended he has utterly neglected to attend them.

He has refuſed to paſs other laws for the accommodation of large diſtricts of people, unleſs thoſe people will relinquiſh the rights of repreſentation in the legiſlature; a right ineſtimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legiſlative bodies at places unuſual, uncomfortable, and diſtant from the depoſitory of their records, for the ſole purpoſe of fatiguing them into compliance with his meaſures.

He

He has diſſolved repreſentative houſes repeatedly, for oppoſing with manly firmneſs, his invaſions on the rights of the people.

He has refuſed for a long time, after ſuch diſſolutions, to cauſe others to be erected; whereby the legiſlative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exerciſe; the ſtate remaining in the mean time expoſed to all the dangers of invaſion from without, and convulſions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of theſe ſtates; for that purpoſe, obſtructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners, refuſing to paſs others to encourage their migrations hither, and raiſing the conditions of new appropriations of land.

He has obſtructed the adminiſtration of juſtice, by refuſing his aſſent to laws for eſtabliſhing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their ſalaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and ſent hither ſwarms of officers to harraſs our people, and eat out their ſubſiſtence.

He has kept among us in times of peace, ſtanding armies without the conſent of our legiſlatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and ſuperior to, the civil power;

He has combined with others to ſubject to a juriſdiction foreign to our conſtitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his aſſent to their pretended acts of legiſlation.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us.

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from puniſhment for any murders which they ſhould commit on the inhabitants of theſe ſtates.

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world.

For impoſing taxes on us without our conſent.

For depriving us in many caſes, of the benefit of trial by jury.

For tranſporting us beyond ſea to be tried for pretended offences.

For

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province; establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies.

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments.

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our sea, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely parallelled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terms, our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injuries.---A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time, of attempts, by their legislature, to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here

here. We have appealed to their native juſtice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to diſavow theſe uſurpations which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correſpondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of juſtice and conſanguinity. We muſt therefore acquieſce in the neceſſity which denounces our ſeparation, and hold them, as we hold the reſt of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the repreſentatives of the united States of America, in General Congreſs aſſembled, appealing to the ſupreme judge of the World, for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of theſe colonies, ſolemnly publiſh and declare, that the united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES, and that they are abſolved from all allegiance to the Britiſh Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is, and ought to be totally diſſolved; and that, as free and independant ſtates, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, eſtabliſh commerce, and to do all other acts and things, which independant ſtates may have a right to do. And for the ſupport of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our ſacred honour.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Congreſs,

JOHN HANCOCK, Preſident.

Atteſt. CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Extract of a LETTER

I Have looked over the memorials to you, and as I conceive, to all lovers of liberty. I approve of their contents, purport, and deſign; and ſhall be ready to contribute towards their promotion and completion. I am perſuaded that calamities are hanging over our heads, and that the blackeſt attempts on our liberties are in agitation.

Every intelligent man who regards poſterity, muſt be under dread-apprehenſions; but as I am a feeble old man, without heirs, and juſt going

going out of the world, and being too in a delicate and tickliſh ſtate of health, cannot act in this moſt noble cauſe with a vigour proportioned to my zeal, and good wiſhes: and hence likewiſe you will reflect that I have no conſideration at all, but philanthrophy, to incite the ſtuper of old age, and warm the ice of ſuperannuation. If I could look on a race of children and grand children juſt on the brink of ſlavery, it would rouſe my pity and compaſſion, as well as fire my indignation; but, thanks be to Heaven, I ſhall have none ſuch to be made ſlaves of to any weak and ungrateful prince.

I ſhould be glad to ſee you, and any other hearty friends to the cauſe of Liberty, at my Houſe, in order to conſult of the beſt means of carry the intention of the patriots who have addreſſed you, into execution. I ſhould glory in being inſtrumental in promoting ſo good a cauſe, which I am ſure Heaven muſt look down upon with pleaſure and approbation. Believe me to be very much a friend to the cauſe, to the friends of the Bill of Rights, as well as,

Dear Sir

Your moſt humble ſervant,

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